



**CITY OF TUCSON**

# **MEDIA RELEASE**

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Contact:** Marty McCune, Historic Preservation Officer  
Department of Urban Planning & Design  
(520) 791-4505

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**TTY:** (520) 791-2639

### **EL PRESIDIO DE TUCSON GROUNDBREAKING CEREMONY WILL TAKE PLACE ON DECEMBER 15**

On Thursday, December 15, Tucson's Mayor and Council and Río Nuevo will host a groundbreaking ceremony for one of Downtown's signature cultural attractions, El Presidio de Tucson. The celebration will take place at 11 a.m. at the corner of Church Avenue and Washington Street.

After the official ceremony, refreshments, site tours, and archaeological information will be provided. El Presidio de Tucson, which is part of Tucson Origins Heritage Park, is expected to be a cultural cornerstone of Tucson's revitalized Downtown when it is complete in the spring of 2007.

In October, a team led by Means Design & Building was awarded the design/build contract for El Presidio de Tucson. The Presidio site was formerly part of an 11-acre fort built by the Spanish in the late 18<sup>th</sup> century. Future visitors to El Presidio de Tucson will be able to envision what military life was like in the late 18<sup>th</sup> and early 19<sup>th</sup> centuries. The adobe triplex at 196 N. Court will provide exhibit space for artifacts from Tucson's Sonoran and territorial periods and opportunities to study Tucson's evolution from the 1780s through today. Cost of the project is \$2.2 million, to be paid by Río Nuevo Tax Increment Financing (TIF).

Río Nuevo is the comprehensive Downtown revitalization project funded by the State of Arizona, the City of Tucson, and private enterprise. Its goals are to create a vibrant experience in Downtown Tucson for citizens and visitors through the development of new attractions, shops, restaurants, office space and housing, and to ultimately make Downtown Tucson into the "Heart of the City."

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